

Application No. 10/763,761
Amendment dated March 30, 2007
Reply to the Office action of November 30, 2006

The Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, said cartridge comprising a storage chamber containing the one or more beverage ingredients, the cartridge further comprising a filter disposed between the storage chamber and at least a part of an undersurface of a top of the cartridge, one or more passages being formed between the filter and the top of the cartridge, which one or more passages communicate with an outlet of the cartridge on an opposite side of the filter from the top of the cartridge via an exit path separated from the storage chamber, whereby a beverage flow path linking one or more inlets to the outlet passes upwardly through the filter into the one or more passages, wherein the cartridge has a disc-shaped outer member having a central axis and a hollow inwardly directed and closed cylindrical extension centered on the central axis, and the aspect ratio of the vertical height of the storage chamber to the breadth of the storage chamber is between 0.10 and 0.43.

Claim 2 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the aspect ratio of the vertical height of the storage chamber to the breadth of the storage chamber is 0.21 to 0.28.

Claim 3 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 2 wherein the aspect ratio is approximately 0.25.

Claims 4 and 5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 3 wherein the one or more inlets are directed radially into the storage chamber.

Claim 7 (Original): A cartridge as claimed in claim 6 wherein the one or more inlets are arranged at or near the periphery of the cartridge to direct flow of an aqueous medium radially inwards into the storage chamber.

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A cartridge as claimed in claim 9 1 wherein the beverage ingredient is roast and ground coffee.

Claim 10 (Withdrawn): A method of dispensing a beverage from a cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients in a storage chamber, comprising the steps of passing an aqueous medium through the cartridge to form a beverage from said one or more beverage ingredients, and dispensing the beverage into a receptacle, wherein the cartridge has an aspect ratio of the vertical height of the storage chamber to the diameter of the storage chamber of between 0.10 and 0.43 and the aqueous medium is passed through the cartridge at a pressure of 0.1 to 2.0 bar.

Claim 11 (Withdrawn): A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein the aspect ratio of the vertical height of the storage chamber to the breadth of the storage chamber is 0.21 to 0.28.

Claim 12 (Cancelled).

Claim 13 (Withdrawn): A method of dispensing a beverage from a cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients in a storage chamber, comprising the steps of passing an aqueous medium through the cartridge to form a beverage from

said one or more beverage ingredients, and dispensing the beverage into a receptacle, wherein the cartridge has an aspect ratio of the vertical height of the storage chamber to the breadth of the storage chamber of between 0.42 and 0.68 and the aqueous medium is passed through the cartridge at a pressure of 2.0 to 4.0 bar.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein a circumferential manifold substantially surrounds the storage chamber, the manifold having a plurality of inlets permitting flow from the manifold into the storage chamber.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, said cartridge comprising a disc-shaped outer member having a central axis, an interior storage chamber containing the one or more beverage ingredients, and a hollow inwardly directed and closed cylindrical extension centered on the central axis and disposed on an opposite side of the cartridge from an inlet of the cartridge, wherein the aspect ratio of the vertical height of the storage chamber to the breadth of the storage chamber is between 0.10 and 0.43.

Claim 16 (Previously Presented): A cartridge as claimed in claim 15 wherein the outer member has an upper face positioned radially outward from the central axis, the upper face being generally planar and positioned in a plane substantially perpendicular to the central axis.

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): A cartridge as claimed in claim 16 wherein an outlet of the cartridge is axially aligned with the cylindrical extension and on an opposite side of the cartridge ~~and an inlet is aligned with the upper face and on an opposite side of the cartridge~~.

Claim 19 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 1 wherein the exit path is at least partially through a discharge spout.

Claim 20 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the discharge spout is coaxial with the cylindrical extension.

Claim 21 (New): A cartridge as claimed in claim 19 wherein the discharge spout has a portion surrounded by the storage chamber.

Claim 22 (New): A cartridge containing one or more beverage ingredients and being formed from substantially air- and water-impermeable materials, said cartridge comprising a storage chamber containing the one or more beverage ingredients, the cartridge further comprising a filter disposed between the storage chamber and at least a part of an undersurface of a top of the cartridge, one or more passages being formed between the filter and the top of the cartridge, which one or more passages communicate with an outlet of the cartridge whereby a beverage flow path linking one or more inlets to the outlet passes upwardly through the filter into the one or more passages, wherein the cartridge has a disc-shaped outer member having a central axis and a hollow inwardly directed and closed cylindrical extension centered on the central axis, and the aspect ratio of the vertical height of the storage chamber to the breadth of the storage chamber is between 0.10 and 0.43, and a circumferential manifold surrounding the storage chamber, the manifold having a plurality of inlets permitting flow from the manifold into the storage chamber.